CLAIM AMENDMENTS

- 1.-36. (Canceled)
- 37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for suturing a tissue membrane, the apparatus comprising:

a tubular body having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the distal portion extendable through an opening in the tissue membrane caused by a catheterization procedure;

a needle advanceable in a distal direction along the tubular body and through the tissue membrane adjacent the opening in the tissue membrane the needle having an eyelet and a length of suture through the eyelet;

a hemostasis seal member on the distal portion of the tubular member, the seal member being openable against outflow of fluid through the opening in the tissue membrane; and

a suture chamber defined in the proximal portion of the tubular body, the suture chamber holding a length of suture, wherein the needle is adapted to carry at least a portion of the length of suture from the suture chamber through the tissue membrane.

- 38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising a suture retrieval assembly at the distal portion of the tubular body and deployable to receive the suture after the tubular body is extended through the opening in the tissue membrane.
 - 39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the suture is attached to the needle.
- 40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the eyelet carries a doubled-back length of suture.
- 41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the needle is a hollow needle that carries the suture through the center of the hollow needle.

42.-54. (Cancelled)

Hathaway; USSN 10/008,781 RESPONSE TO ADVISORY ACTION 7037-438,#382669 55. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for suturing tissue, comprising:
a tubular body having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the distal portion
extendable through an opening in the tissue;

a needle advanceable in a distal direction along the tubular body and through the tissue adjacent the opening in the tissue membrane, the needle having an eyelet and a length of suture through the eyelet; and

a hemostasis seal member associated with the distal portion of the tubular member, the seal being openable against outflow of fluid through the opening in the tissue membrane.

- 56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 55 further comprising a needle magazine associated with the tubular body, the needle magazine configured to house a portion of the needle.
- 57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 56 further comprising a suture chamber defined in the proximal portion of the tubular body, the suture chamber holding a length of suture, wherein the needle is adapted to carry at lest a portion of the length of suture from the suture chamber through the tissue membrane.
- 58. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57 further comprising a suture retrieval assembly at the distal portion of the tubular body and deployable to receive the suture after the tubular body is extended through the opening in the tissue.

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